

ADMAT Newsletter



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Anglo-Danish Maritime Archaeological Team (ADMAT) & ADMAT USA & ADMAT-FRANCE

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The Fourth Newsletter

By Dr. Simon Q. Spooner

President ADMAT, ADMAT-FRANCE & Vice President ADMAT USA

I am delighted to present the fourth issue of our newsletter and to thank everyone who kindly commented on the last issue. The positive response was encouraging and shows we're on the right track. Since our last newsletter, a number of exciting developments have occurred, which I'm pleased to share in this issue.

Before proceeding, I'll step outside the realms of archaeology to note the earthquake disaster in Haiti. It started the year badly and was felt as far away as Monte Cristi. It will be some time before the Haitian community is back on its feet. Our thoughts and best wishes are with the people who were so tragically affected.

In 2009, work continued on the French 1690s shipwreck called *The Tile Wreck*. We believe it sank between 1720 and 1723 in current water depths of 2-3 metres off Monte Cristi. Further investigation occurred on the port amidships section of the wreck. Dr. François Gendron and Florence Prudhomme have continued their search through the French archives, finding a number of ships which were wrecked in Monte Cristi. But the identification of this wreck still eludes us. We will continue until we're successful, as with *Le Casimir* and *Le Dragon*, in discovering the name and details of this wreck.

In June 2010 we will be returning to *The Tile Wreck* as well as new projects. ADMAT has been asked to survey two land sites in the Monte Cristi region and we are finalising plans. This new development will enable ADMAT to provide team members with essential land survey and excavation experience. 2010 will be an interesting year for all at ADMAT and as usual a unique opportunity for those who wish to part and to assist in our quest in protecting *The Tile Wreck* and the Taino sites.

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Photograph 1: Maritime archaeologist Mats Nelson and team measuring the cargo of granite blocks on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT- Nielsen).

ADMAT is a non-profit organisation based in the UK.

ADMAT USA is an American Charity (Section 501 (c) 3) based in Columbus, Ohio.

ADMAT- FRANCE is a non-profit organisation at the Institut de Paléontologie Humaine, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, in Paris.

ADMAT USA & ADMAT-FRANCE are subdivisions of the Anglo ~ Danish Maritime Archaeological Team.

ADMAT Addresses UNESCO

UNESCO's 2001 Convention came into force on 2 January 2009. The Director-General convened the first session of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention from 26 to 27 March 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters. Dr. Gendron and Dr. Spooner attended this important conference representing ADMAT & ADMAT-FRANCE as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with experience in protecting underwater cultural heritage (UCH) in the Caribbean.

19 States Parties to the Convention attended and 71 States non-Parties to the Convention participated as observers, 5 intergovernmental agencies and 23 NGOs, including ADMAT & ADMAT-FRANCE.



Photograph 2: Dr. Spooner during his speech to the UNESCO conference (© ADMAT- Gendron).

The conference was successful. ADMAT was recognised from “the floor” and Dr. Spooner gave a 15 minute speech on the issues facing the Caribbean



Photograph 3: Dr. Gendron listening to delegates' at the UNESCO Conference (© ADMAT- Spooner).

and the ongoing problem with treasure hunters who are destroying the historic shipwrecks.

The speech was well received, with the Cuban and Portuguese ambassadors congratulating him on his accurate assessment.

Dr. Spooner raised a number of issues in his speech, fighting the ways of treasure hunters, greater worldwide information on looted artefacts, better cross-flow of information between governments and the ability to enable artefacts looted in one country to be confiscated when they arrive in another country prior to the sale of these cultural items.

Dr. Spooner also stated his belief that the media war was currently being lost and better promotion of archaeology in its simplest understanding was needed. The protection of UCH needs to be accurately portrayed in the media to counteract the treasure hunters' propaganda and TV programs.

More television programs showing the scientific investigation of maritime archaeological sites are needed enabling better awareness of proper archaeological investigation to be gained by all. The fact that the oceans are not a free for all and that all shipwrecks belong to someone needs to be taken seriously by all nations.

His final point: the less affluent Caribbean countries hold the largest quantities of UCH belonging to the old colonial empires. Financing must be found by the old empires to enable surveys and excavations of their countries' wrecks in the Caribbean. The Caribbean nations, whilst mainly willing to protect what is now part of their UCH, are unable to do so because financial resources are simply not available.

A number of important contacts were made and it was generally felt that there was a way forward provided all the red tape could be cut, better collaboration among countries is developed and financial support be established. It is hoped that UNESCO can assist with the protection of UCH in the Caribbean, where action is needed today!

My Time on *The Tile Wreck*

By Shannon Turner – Student.

How could a girl from the cornfields of Indiana become so interested in underwater archaeology? An early opportunity to travel, surf and scuba dive in lieu of summer camp left me with the passion of a lifetime. To be honest, my interest in scuba diving is what led me to the ADMAT field school, and ultimately to participating in the excavation of *The Tile Wreck*. Though my love for all things of the underwater variety began with marine animals and breathing on SCUBA, it is no surprise that this devotion to the aquatic realm eventually led to an interest in maritime archaeology. After diving on many wrecks without more than an introductory knowledge of the sites, I realized that I wanted to know more.

This is how I found myself travelling to the Dominican Republic in the summer of 2009. It was in the charming town of Monte Cristi that five others and I lived during our two-week stay. The ADMAT base, an old shrimp hatchery in the midst of Dominican salt pans, proved to be the perfect location to house not only us, but also the hundreds of artifacts recovered by previous ADMAT crews held in the sizable conservation tanks.

We learned quickly in the Dominican Republic that plans often change abruptly and without notice. In fact, within our first few days, we were informed that due to some switch in political leadership, a law had been modified almost overnight and the dredge-method that was often used in the past for excavation was no longer permissible. Fortunately, led by the resourceful Dr. Simon Spooner and Christine Nielsen, the team



Photograph 4: Shannon and the Team uncovering the central section on the port side of *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT - Nielsen).



Photograph 5: Shannon Turner de-kitting after a morning diving on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT - Nielsen).

was able to set up a three meter by three meter PVC pipe grid system and uncover all twelve squares over the course of the remaining week and a half through the tedious process of hand-fanning.

Each day was productive and exciting. Though we were diving up to six consecutive hours a day, these hours flew by. Square by square the team uncovered various bits of history; disposable clay pipes, tiles, concretions and many pieces of wood, which we later assessed to be the double-planked hull, bound together by the still-visible bits of tar and horsehair. After extensively photographing and bagging each artifact, the team rounded out each day back at the ADMAT base to discuss these successful advancements on the wreck, and hopefully piece together more clues about its wrecking process.

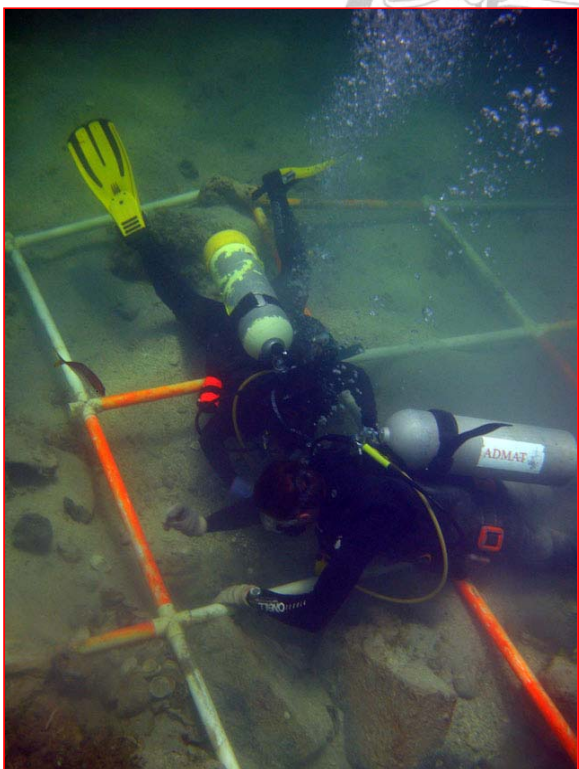
In the evenings, Dr. Spooner taught us about the methodology of excavating, documenting and conserving shipwrecks, sometimes through lectures and other times with hands-on practice in the tanks. Many of these nights even ended at Coco Mar, a local restaurant, to watch the sunset while sipping on an ice-cold Cuba Libre.

The experience I had with ADMAT was extremely gratifying and rewarding. I learned not only how to follow clues to piece together the wrecking process

using proper archaeological techniques, but I also learned how to work with a team of archaeologists and to truly appreciate the culture and environment of the Dominican Republic. I hope to go back in 2010 and continue learning under Dr. Spooner and the ADMAT team in the summer field school!



Photograph 6: Shannon collecting artefacts uncovered by hand fanning in Square D2 (© ADMAT - Nielsen).



Photograph 7: Team hand fanning around the edges of some of the granite blocks which were cargo on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT - Spooner).

The Tile Wreck Continued...

By Dr. Simon O. Spooner.

It was with great pleasure that we returned to *The Tile Wreck* in July 2009 with a small but dedicated team. This time the team was represented from Denmark, Dominican Republic Sweden, USA and UK. The focus of this field school was to examine the central section of the wreck which had not yet been measured. In particular, the need was to examine the cargo of granite blocks for any markings and determine if this was indeed the area where some were stacked.



Photograph 8: Dr. Spooner, in foreground, leading the team for another excellent four-hour morning dive (© ADMAT - Nielsen).

Previously, we had noted some stacked areas but had not the time to document them. Arriving at the site, we noticed that the large number of sand bags we had placed on the wreck at the end of the last field school, had been disturbed. This was very frustrating as we had to spend time checking the area to establish if anything was missing. Because we had buried most of the central section of the wreck with multiple layers of sand bags the site appeared to have been protected.



Photograph 9: Maritime archaeologist Mats Nelson uncovering sections of sand bags from the centre portion of *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT - Spooner).



Photograph 10: One of many jellyfish which were a menace as they came in waves in the afternoon on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT – Spooner).

Due to the change in politics, we were not able to use the archaeological dredge. This was a setback, but it did not stop us and we proceeded as on *The Button Wreck* in the Florida Keys where we simply hand fanned in succession. The light sand overburden is directed behind the diver and another diver, positioned behind the first, removes it further away from the site. The only drawback with this method is that it's time consuming. As a result, we did not have enough time to find the area where the blocks were stacked. However 10 sq meters (B8-10, C8-10 and D7-10) were uncovered, documented and re-covered.



Photograph 11: Student Chris Stephenson and Mats measuring one of the cargo of granite blocks into the grid (© ADMAT – Spooner).

We believe *The Tile Wreck* was built around 1690 and as few wrecks of this period have been surveyed, this vessel is very important in the information it can yield. For example, it has a very interesting construction in that it is enclosed in a double hull.

The inner hull was coated with a mixture of horse hair and tar to protect it from worms, which like to burrow holes. This was held in place by an outer or sacrificial hull.



Photograph 12: Chris hand-fanning sand away from the ceiling planking (© ADMAT – Spooner).

Worms burrowing through the sacrificial planking (the outer layer), would meet the hair and tar (the middle layer), choking on this mixture, thereby dying before they could breach the hull (the inner layer).

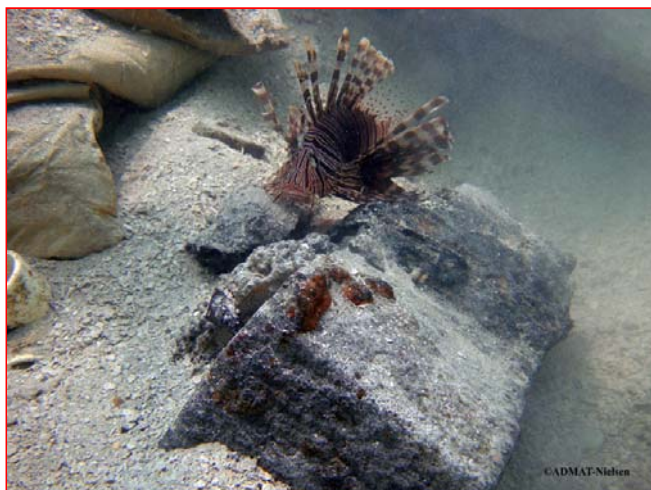
We now know from Dr Gendron's research and chemical analysis, that the yellow Ochoa paint on the exterior of the hull was a form of organic paint, possibly acting as a further protector of the timber.

Upon arriving at the site, we were met by the "guardians" of the wreck: lionfish. We estimated that five, maybe even seven have now taken up residence on the wreck site.



Photograph 13: Chris and Shannon hand-fanning the overburden from in front of them to behind them to uncover the square (© ADMAT – Spooner).

Our lionfish seem to be of the red variety of *Pterois volitans*. In the Caribbean, where lionfish aren't native, they grow to a size of up to 55 cm. Their colourings are beautiful, but being poisonous, we give them a wide berth for both our protection and theirs. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is monitoring their expansion across the Caribbean as they are aggressive species and we reported their location.



Photograph 14: One of the protectors of *The Tile Wreck* on guard duty (© ADMAT – Nielsen).



Photograph 15: The Team busy at work measuring and hand fanning (© ADMAT - Nielsen).

Our strategy for dealing with lionfish is to have one diver constantly monitoring them to fend them away from us or move us if that was necessary. By the end of the survey we had what appeared to be an “understanding” with them, in that we would keep away from them and they kept away from us... a perfect solution for all. Other small fish (fairy basslets sergeant majors, tangs) came and went, some interested in our activities, others just seeing if we were offering them food. It seems that each year the fish life changes, old friends move on and new ones are found, which adds to the fun of working on the site.

During this survey we focused on the central section of the wreck. In this section we did not find any remains of terracotta tiles nor French faienceware, which supports the theory that the granite blocks were part of the cargo and were placed exclusively in this section of the hold.



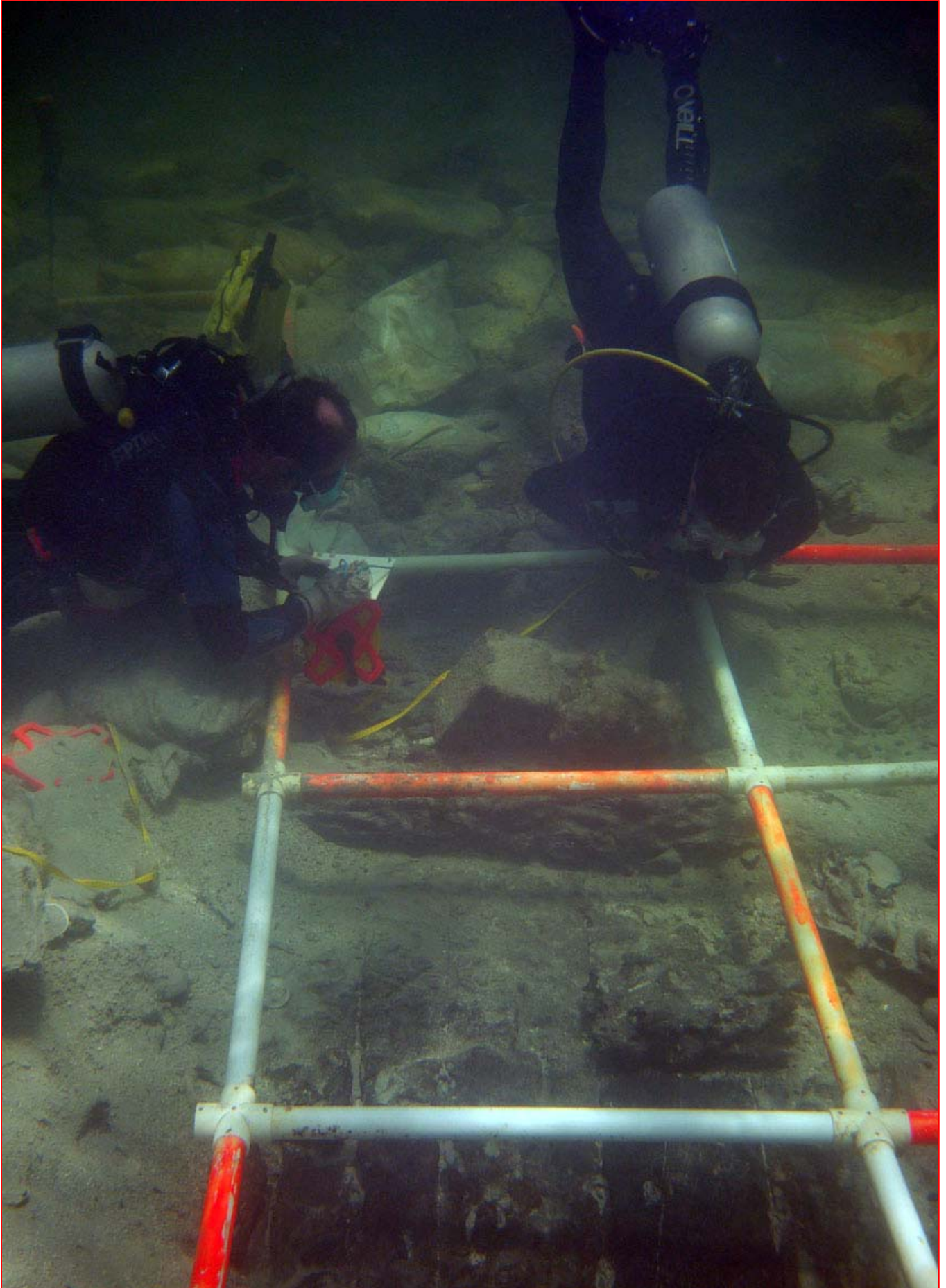
Photograph 16: Chris kneeling and hand fanning past both sides of him to uncover the square (© ADMAT – Spooner).



Photograph 17: The large coral which is situated on the centre of the wreck site, near where cannon 2 was discovered. The coral is called “Mr Mummy” by the team (© ADMAT – Nielsen).

There were no signs of any visible bulkheads which would have contained the blocks, but there must have been some system. We hope that in the next survey we will find clues to this and also clues which will lead us to confirm which end is the bow and which end is the stern.

Continued on page 8



Photograph 18: Another granite block to be measured and positioned in relation to the wooden planking of the central hull section. The ceiling planking in this area is no longer in evidence and the granite block has fallen down to the inside of the hull planking (© ADMAT – Spooner).

During the course, the students spent many days documenting the artefacts as part of the Artefact Handling Course, which further added to their experience.

This gave the students excellent hands-on experience. They were taught how to record the artefacts' using ADMAT's programs. Lessons were also given on photographing, measuring and describing artefacts. Conservation issues were also addressed. Once the training had been undertaken then the students assisted with the documenting of artefacts from *The Tile Wreck*.

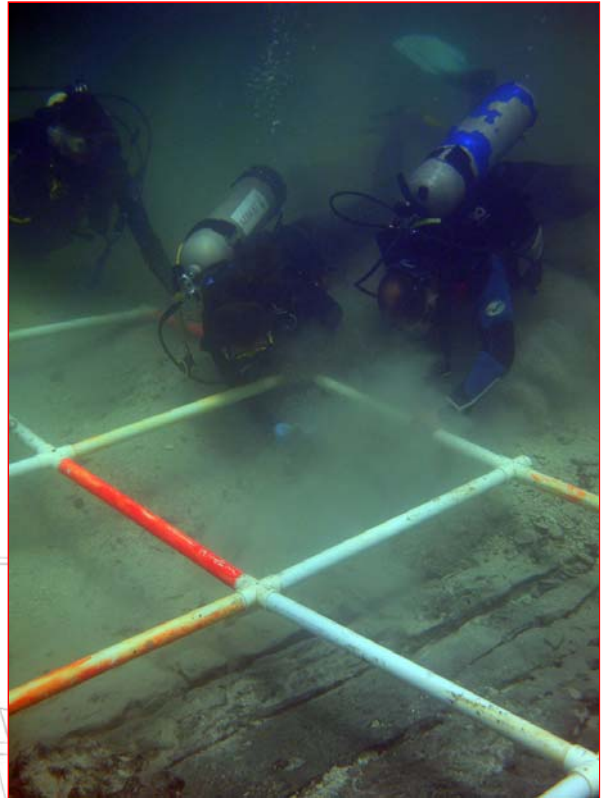


Photograph 19: Chris and Shannon measuring the scale replica of the central cargo section of *The Tile Wreck*, prior to flooding the tanks and repeating the exercise under water (© ADMAT – Nielsen).



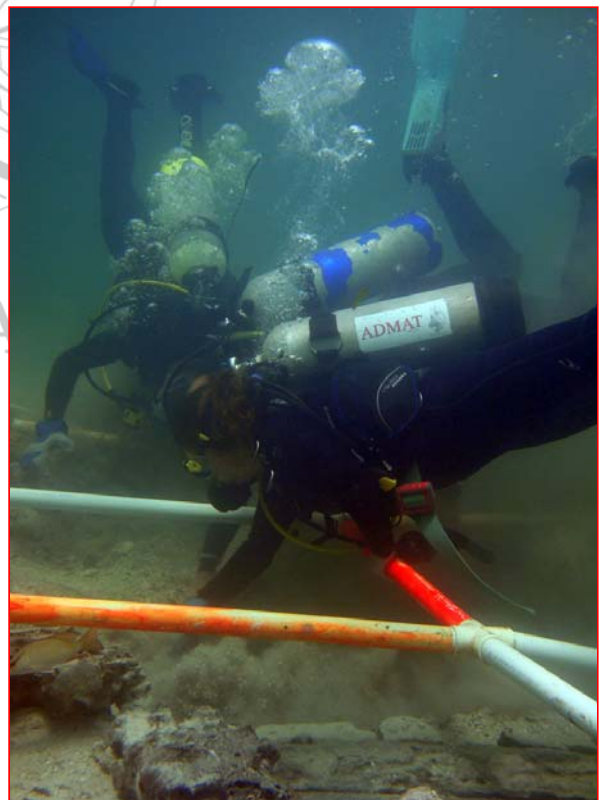
Photograph 20: Chris and Shannon drawing their measurements from the tank exercise (© ADMAT – Nielsen).

Students also learned to measure a life size replica of the granite blocks on the cargo deck of *The Tile Wreck*. These blocks had been measured, raised from the sea and repositioned in one of the conservation tanks at the centre to the exact dimensions as they were on the wreck site. Each block was measured and drawn to scale. The tank was then flooded and the students were required to measure them again, this time repeating the exercise underwater - a difficult and more realistic exercise. Great training for the real thing.



Photograph 21: The Team hand fanning to expose lower hull timbers on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT – Spooner).

This session on *The Tile Wreck* turned out well, with over 10 square metres being carefully documented. Next time, we hope to have the dredges, which would have made this survey session much more productive.



Photograph 22: The Team uncovering another granite block which had fallen through the hull on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT – Spooner).

Rami Passes His PADI Divemaster Certification!

Over the year Dr. Spooner had been training Rami for his important PADI Divemaster qualification. Dr. Spooner was proud to be part of this milestone as he was the PADI instructor who originally trained Rami to dive in 1999. Rami took the exam in November 2009 and passed with flying colours. So from all at ADMAT, well done to Rami for this marvellous achievement.



Photograph 23: Divemaster Rami at the helm of one of the boats returning from *The Tile Wreck* through the mangroves (© ADMAT – Spooner).

National Parks Visit ADMAT

ADMAT was delighted to welcome staff from The Dominican Government National Parks to the Centre. Christine Nielsen and Rami conducted an excellent tour of the facility, explaining the conservation program and showcasing the artefacts. Rami described the maritime archaeological processes and how we were at the forefront of documenting the UCH of the Dominican Republic.



Photograph 24: Christine Nielsen and Rami showing National Parks officials round the Centre (© ADMAT – Nielsen).

ADMAT UK Moves Offices

ADMAT's UK office has moved to a new location. This historic office accommodation is older than any wreck we have worked on! The building once belonged to Henry VIII, King of England and is part of his Royal Mews in Hampton Court in Surrey, England.



Photograph 25: The front elevation of ADMAT's new office possibly built in 1540 (© ADMAT - Schomberg).



Photograph 26: The rear courtyard elevation of ADMAT's new office possibly built in 1540 (© ADMAT - Schomberg).

One delightful architectural feature of the building is the entrance staircase, spiral in design and made of stone, it is located in a small tower at the rear of the property.



Photograph 27: Dr. Spooner and Sqn Ldr (VRT) Jeremy Schomberg at the RAC Club after the ADMAT's 2010 AGM which followed the office move (© ADMAT).

ADMAT-FRANCE Visits COMEX

By Florence Prudhomme – ADMAT-FRANCE

Organized by HDS (Historical Diving Society), ADMAT-FRANCE was invited to visit the headquarters COMEX, the famous deep diving and exploration company. COMEX, who are leaders in their field, found that the technology did not exist for many of their deep water operations. They therefore had to design and build what they needed.

According to their web site, COMEX had to invent and develop everything (chambers, diving bells, dynamic-positioning vessels, etc.) and have drawn up reliable dive tables. The French company's ability to innovate is based on the research work of the HYPERBARIC EXPERIMENTAL CENTRE. Through its major programs, this centre has hosted world-renowned scientific teams of academic and industrial researchers and engineers.

At the same time, COMEX has developed a unique kind of know-how in the technologies suitable for extreme environments. This mastery now enables them to fulfil every type of request (i.e. submarines, submarine equipment, hyperbaric chambers, special machinery, etc.).

Below are a few of the major innovations listed by COMEX on their web site:

- 1964: COMEX invents the first hyperbaric chamber
- 1969: First industrial dive to 160 meters
- 1981: SEABEX, the first modern dynamically positioned vessel for diving.
- 1985: SAGA, the world's largest civilian diver lock-out submersible of 545 tons, with an operating depth of 600 meters, developed in cooperation with IFREMER
- 1986: First orbital welding robot
- 1988: HYDRA 8: World record for depth in the high seas, to 530 meters
- 1992: HYDRA 10: World depth record set at 701 m, in the chambers of the Experimental Centre; still unbroken.
- 1994: REMORA first 600 meters submarine with a transparent acrylic sphere.
- 2000: Construction of JANUS, a survey ship featuring a concentration of technology
- 2005: New-generation dynamic positioning system
- 2007: Design of a fully automatic test machine for equipment at 1,000 bars of pressure

Thanks to COMEX for an interesting and informative visit!



Photograph 28: Florence Prudhomme in one of the prototype COMEX diving bells (© ADMAT - FRANCE).

ADMAT-FRANCE New Publications

By Florence Prudhomme – ADMAT-FRANCE

Dr. Gendron and I have been working hard in the archives researching our next story. Dr. Gendron has just put the finishing touches on his new publication, a follow up to the story of *Le Casimir*. This ship hit the reef on the north coast of the Dominican Republic in 1829 seven miles east of Monte Cristi. The wreck site was surveyed by ADMAT in 2005-2009 and the analysis of the wrecking process led to the identification of the ship in the French archives after nearly two years of painstaking research.

Favre, Captain of this ill-fated little ship, has an interesting story (his father being a forgotten hero of France), having been awarded a letter of marquee and many other accolades. The tale of Capt. Favre, the man who wrecked *Le Casimir* on the reefs off Monte Cristi and the adventures of his father can be told at last. The article will be coming out in the autumn of 2010. More details to follow on our web site.

GEEST Continues to Sponsor ADMAT's Transportation Needs

ADMAT is delighted to report that following a meeting with Captain Peter Dixon (Operations Director) and Jim Porteous, (Commercial Manager) from GEEST LINE, GEEST will continue to sponsor ADMAT's shipping requirements.

In 2003, GEEST Line sponsored the vital shipping of 20 tonnes of scientific, diving and tactical equipment in two 20 ft ISO containers from England to St Kitts for the White House Bay Project. On this project ADMAT had to build a base camp "MASH" style on the beach, as well as take all the necessary equipment for the survey of this important wreck site.

Following a request in 2009, GEEST Line again kindly arranged for a 20 ft ISO container to be delivered to ADMAT's Centre in Monte Cristi. GEEST Line ships all over the Caribbean and is one of the major shippers to Barbados, Trinidad, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Kitts (Nevis), Grenada, Antigua & Martinique and to the UK.



Photograph 29: The GEEST container arrives at dusk (© ADMAT - Nielsen).

The container arrived at the Centre late in the evening on the back of a Mack truck. However, one small problem arose: the truck had no HIAB or crane on it and ADMAT did not have a fork lift truck. Dr. Spooner remembered Captain Dixon joking when they met, saying "we could always tie a chain round a lamp post and to the container and then drive away leaving the container". There was no lamp post, only a scrubby tree. Improvisation ensued: a piece of anchor chain was found and



Photograph 30: Some of the team, Mats, Shannon, Christopher, Christine & Simon with IZI (© ADMAT - Rami).

the container was tied to the tree. The Mack truck revved up, engaged and shot forward. Camera in hand ready to take photos, Dr. Spooner was not prepared for what happened next. As the Mack truck drove off at high speed, taking the flatbed with it, the container hovered in mid air for what seemed like an eternity! In a state of surprise, and stunned at how long it seemed to take for the container to land, he forgot to take the photo!



The container sustained no damage and is now being used as a secure storage area, waiting for the time to ship items back to the UK.

GEEST has the facilities to ship anything across the Caribbean. After the St. Kitts Project we remembered they even shipped a complete Locomotive and truck on rails back to the UK! With their big ships they can manage anything..... well perhaps a complete shipwreck might be a challenge, although we are sure Captain Peter Dixon and his team would actually make it work!

Our heartfelt thanks go to GEEST Line, Captain Dixon and Jim Porteous for their continued assistance and sponsorship!

Denmark's "Q" Magazine

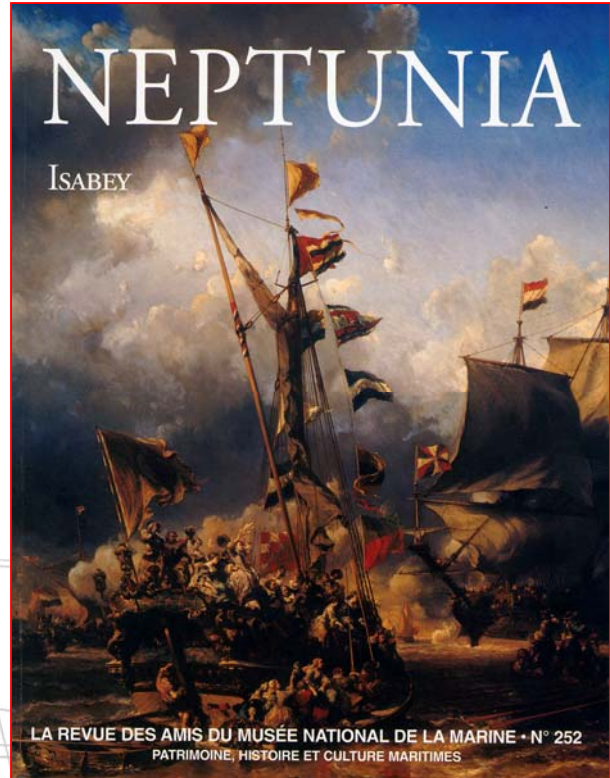
As reported in the last newsletter, while visiting her native country of Denmark, Christine Nielsen was interviewed by journalist Gitte Holm from the Danish "Q" Magazine. The article came out in the summer and discussed over a number of pages what it is like to be a maritime archaeologist working on field projects. It further went on to discuss Christine's views about ADMAT's dedicated work to protect underwater cultural heritage.



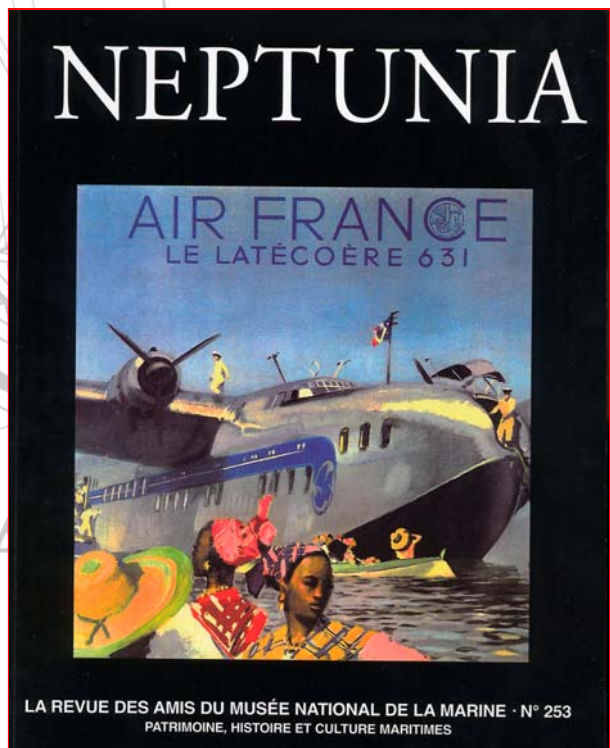
Photograph 31: The first page of the Christine "Q" Danish article.

Neptunia Published *Le Casimir* Story in Two Parts

ADMAT was delighted when the Musée National de la Marine peer review journal published the story of ADMAT's work in identifying *Le Casimir* and the archaeological survey. The 8,000 word article was jointly written by Spooner, Gendron & Prudhomme. *Neptunia* divided the piece into two and published in two consecutive journals. This is unusual and we are very pleased with the publication.



Photograph 32: Neptunia publication No: 252 front cover, which contains the first part of ADMAT's *Le Casimir* article.



Photograph 33: Neptunia publication No: 253 front cover, which contains the second part of ADMAT's *Le Casimir* article.

We hope in time that more publications on *Le Casimir* will be achieved. Dr. Gendron is already drafting another publication on the history of *Le Casimir's* Captain and the startling discovery which were made in the archives about this captain and his father. These will be reviewed in the next newsletter.

Dr. Gendron's Maritime Archaeological Diving Qualification

It is with great pleasure that we report that Dr. François Gendron successfully achieved the maritime archaeological diving qualification from the French Diving Federation. François is the 18th person in France's Côte d'Azur region to have achieved this qualification and we congratulate him on this accomplishment.



Dr. Gendron: Taino Expert

Whilst most people associate Dr. François Gendron with ADMAT, diving, French shipwrecks, research etc, it is easy to forget that he is one of the French Government's leading experts on Pre-Hispanic Mexican and Taino artefacts.



Photograph 34: Dr. François Gendron with a rare trigonolithe artefact (three stones used for agricultural rights) which he is analysing at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. (© ADMAT - Spooner).

He was head of the Latin American collections at American Department of the Musée de l'Homme, Paris, transferring to the Department of Prehistory, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris when the Musée de l'Homme was closed.

As a government expert, Dr. Gendron is often asked to analyse artefacts from around the world. Recently he examined some priceless Taino artefacts with the assistance of Florence Prudhomme.



Photograph 35: Dr. François Gendron with Florence Prudhomme preparing Taino artefacts for analysis as part of François scientific investigation (© ADMAT - Spooner).



Photograph 36: Dr. François Gendron holding a marble Taino mythological animal (© ADMAT - Spooner).

Some of these artefacts come from the Dominican Republic and are typically from the Taino period (1400-1500). This is an old collection which France continues to research.

Dr. Gendron's work allows him to examine special pieces, like the mythological animal in the photo above. This artefact shows that the Taino culture was in contact with the Costa Rican cultures. Dr. Gendron's experience in this field will greatly assist ADMAT when we start work later this year on a new land archaeological project. This will be an exciting three year project.

ADMAT-FRANCE Assists with Grand Morin River Survey

By Dr. François Gendron
Vice President ADMAT-FRANCE

Between April and November each year since 1981, the Grand Morin riverbed in village of Crécy-la-Chapelle is the subject of a maritime archaeological survey. This village has its origins from the 10th century.



Photograph 37: Dr. François Gendron ready to solve the questions on the Grand Morin River (© ADMAT - France).

In the 13th and 14th centuries, fortifications were constructed and archival references to the “river that penetrates and rings the city” frequently mention the digging of a ditch, installation of a mill, a port, cleaning out of the armlets - all activities of importance to the local population.

Since 1981, archaeological survey and excavations have occurred under the waters of the Grand Morin to discover the role the river played in the life of the populace. A post-medieval dump was found and the foundations of a tower of the outer walls of the castle were documented. Today, research efforts concentrate at the point of separation of the waters, between the principal water course and an armlet that penetrates in the village.

Since 1994, the federal center of Crécy-la-Chapelle has allowed underwater excavation training on the site. It is unique in France, to specialize on the training of maritime archaeology. Every season around fifteen divers arrive from the diving clubs of the Ile-de-France/Picardie regions to take part and to assist with the discoveries. My role is to work as the site archaeologist and coordinate the maritime archaeological training to the students. This year Florence Prudhomme also took part. Training is given on artifact handling, survey work, and conservation. This documentation will be followed by the final publication.

Rami Saves Turtle

This is one of those feel good stories and shows how passionate the Team is about its work. Rami was notified by a friend that a he had saved a turtle that had been caught in fishing nets and was in danger of being part of the day’s menu. Realising how rare these creatures are, Rami’s friend brought it to the Centre knowing that Rami has a few smaller pet freshwater turtles that he cares for in our conservation tanks. The turtles are happy with the space and the plentiful supply of mosquito larvae, and we are happy with their service! Luckily seawater turtles can manage in fresh water for a while and so it was placed in one of our larger conservation tanks, where it roamed among the cannons and anchors from *The Tile Wreck*. Trying, but being unable to reach anyone at the national aquarium, Rami and Christine waited till the end of



Photograph 38: The turtle ready for a health check (© ADMAT - Nielsen).



Photograph 39: The turtle passes inspection with no apparent problems from his ordeal (© ADMAT - Nielsen).

the day, when the fishing vessels had returned before taking the turtle to the beach. It was released at the shore and quickly swam out to sea. A fine accomplishment, which prevented this wonderful creature from being turned into turtle soup! Well done Rami and Christine.



Photograph 40: Rami assists his new friend into the sea and hopefully to a safe future (© ADMAT - Nielsen).

Monte Cristi School Visits

One important task which we all enjoy is educating school children from the Monte Cristi region. At the end of November ADMAT was very pleased that two classes from 'Liceo Cristo Libertador' visited ADMAT's Maritime Archaeological Centre. The first class consisted of 35 high school seniors while the second was comprised of 33 high school juniors. This community outreach is part of ADMAT's continuing educational program.



Photograph 41: One of the coaches full of school children arriving at The Centre for the lecture and guided tour (© ADMAT - Nielsen).

The trips were sponsored by Banelino (a company that buys bananas) and we were delighted to speak about maritime archaeology and show them some aspects of our work. Rami emphasized the importance of protecting the Dominican Republic's underwater cultural heritage by displaying the artefacts in the Centre and describing the conservation program in place to protect them.

ADMAT is proud and honoured to be part of an educational program that raises awareness and potentially develops the next generation of protectors of the Dominican's underwater cultural heritage.



Photograph 42: Rami explaining a concreted 4 pound cannon ball, which was found on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT - Nielsen).



Photograph 43: Rami explaining the dead eye concretion which was found on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT - Nielsen).



Photograph 44: Rami showing how a "Barbers Bowl" worked using one found on *The Tile Wreck* (© ADMAT - Nielsen).

Dr. Spooner Takes Top Maritime Archaeological Position in Canada

In June 2009, Dr. Spooner became the Marine Heritage Advisor to the Government of Ontario in Canada. This is one of two top positions in maritime archaeology in Canada (the other is Chief of Maritime Archaeology at Parks Canada, an agency of the federal government) and is a great challenge and one which he was delighted to accept.

Dr. Spooner is responsible for all underwater cultural heritage in an area which is about the size of France and Italy combined. The province of Ontario has some of the world's best examples of historic shipwrecks, many of which are intact, resting on the lakebed with cannons still on the decks. Some of the historic shipwrecks, aboriginal archaeological sites, submerged fortifications and structures are of great archaeological importance. Key facts for Ontario:

- 14.8% of the province's total mass is water, or 158,650 sq km
- Over 250,000 lakes
- Over 100,000 sq km of rivers
- The only Canadian province that borders the Great Lakes, which historically has created many trade routes
- As a result there are approximately over 4,700 sites of historic importance

Ontario's heritage represents approximately 14,000 years of human endeavour. However, swapping the Caribbean temperatures with sub-zero winter temperatures will be a challenge! Dr. Spooner will continue to direct ADMAT's operations and will lead the 2010 *Tile Wreck* project. We at ADMAT wish him well with this new and exciting position.

Florence Prudhomme Tries "The Crabe"

Florence Prudhomme is one of ADMAT's rebreather qualified divers who tried the French military rebreather system called "Crabe" at the Annual Diving Festival in Paris. This system has a weight of 45kgs although once in the water this weight is not felt. Florence stated that the equipment was very comfortable to use. It was a great opportunity to test this as this military equipment is not commercially available.



Photograph 45: Florence trying the "Crabe" and being put through her paces by one of France's military instructors, at the Paris Annual Diving Festival (© ADMAT - FRANCE).

Dr. Spooner Takes Part in the Brock/ Penn Conference

In October 2009, Canada's Brock University, located in St. Catharines, Ontario, hosted the first of two conferences dealing with underwater cultural heritage. Entitled "Who Owns Underwater Cultural Heritage? Perspectives on archaeological law and ethics in the Mediterranean", it brought together an international group of maritime archaeologists and legal specialists to discuss the scientific and ethical complexities faced by underwater archaeologists. The second conference was hosted by the University of Pennsylvania in March 2010.

Dr. Spooner was invited to participate with a select group of experts, some of whom had attended the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Conference in Paris in March 2009. This four day event presented a forum for maritime archaeologists working in territorial and international waters to discuss what ethical, legal and practical standards should direct our collective responsibility as stewards of world cultural heritage. With its entry into force on 2 January 2009, the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage establishes guidelines for scholarly and commercial exploration of submerged cultural remains.

Of the 26 signatories, nine have coastlines that border the Mediterranean (Spain, Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), the primary focus region of this conference. A primary aim for the delegates was to create standards and guidelines for maritime archaeological activities in the Mediterranean for adoption by UNESCO.

ADMAT Assists with the Haitian Relief

According to Wikipedia the 2010 Haiti earthquake was a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 M_w earthquake, with an epicenter near the town of Léogâne, approximately 25 km (16 miles) west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. This is about 110 miles south west of Monte Cristi. The earthquake occurred on Tuesday, 12 January 2010. As of 12 February 2010, an estimated three million people were affected by the quake; the Haitian Government reports that between 217,000 and 230,000 people had been identified as dead, an estimated 300,000 injured, and an estimated 1,000,000 homeless.

When the earthquake hit Monte Cristi felt it. Within hours Rami and Mr Pena realising the major disaster immediately started getting aid to send to them. Together they started getting medicine and bananas and other foods to send to them from the people of Monte Cristi. This was one of the first relief efforts from the Dominican Republic and was on national TV encouraging others to assist in whatever way they can.



Photograph 46: Left to right, Trustee of Monte Cristi, Martinez Innacio, Provincial Governor of Monte Cristi and Lic: Inocencio Pena Admin, Banana Project Cross Manzanillo, while donations to thousands of Bananas and medicine to the brother country of Haiti (© ADMAT - Rami).

Photograph 47: Journalist Raymon, Santos Vazquez, Rami and Rafelito Taveras.



Sponsorship & Donations Required For ADMAT to Continue Our Scientific Work

For ADMAT to continue our maritime archaeological and educational work, we need grants and sponsorship from companies and persons. Maritime archaeological work is an expensive process and as of yet we do not receive grants from France or the Dominican Republic so we rely solely on these grants and donations.

There are plenty of ways in which you can assist and for those in America there are tax advantages for donations via ADMAT USA which is an American Charity (Section 501 (c) 3).

For companies there are excellent PR opportunities for company logos and positive publicity. The areas in which we need support in are as follows:

- ❖ Sponsor a student to attend a field school costs in the region of US\$ 1,300.00 Per week.
- ❖ One 23ft long yola (local made open boat) with outboard engine Cost US \$ 7,000.00
- ❖ One years rent for the Centre 2010. Cost US\$ 4,000.00
- ❖ A researcher in the French Archives. Cost US \$2,000 Per Month.
- ❖ Sponsor the archaeological survey of one of the wreck sites, *The Tile Wreck* 1720's, *Le Casimir* 1829, *The Faience Wreck* 1760's and *Le Dragon* 1783.
- ❖ Sponsorship to cover new diving equipment and servicing the old equipment.
- ❖ Sponsorship of the running costs including staff of the Centre, to enable research and documentation on the artefacts.
- ❖ Sponsorship for a new truck or Land Rover.

For further information on how you or your company can assist, please contact ADMAT's Finance Director Jeremy Schomberg at jeremy@admat.org.uk

ADMAT thanks you for all your support and assistance.